

Tahoe Conservancy Issues Statement on Passing of Dennis T. Machida

California Tahoe Conservancy Board Chairman Larry Severson today issued the following statement regarding the death of Dennis T. Machida:

"We extend our deepest condolences to Kathie and the entire Machida family during this difficult time. They have lost a husband, father and son, and this Conservancy has lost a devoted leader. Throughout his 20 years as executive officer of the Tahoe Conservancy, Dennis dedicated his life to public service and was a compassionate voice for the environment in California. Today we all mourn the loss of this tremendous individual and man of integrity."

Dennis Machida served for nearly 20 years (since 1985) as the first and only Executive Officer the California Tahoe Conservancy has ever known. Under his leadership the Conservancy has authorized over \$290 million, both directly and through grants, for the acquisition of more than 7,400 acres of land and the implementation of nearly 600 projects on the California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin for the purposes of protecting water quality, preserving wildlife habitat, and providing public access and recreational opportunities at Lake Tahoe. He also served on a number of interagency committees at Lake Tahoe including the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee and a State interagency task force on Lake Tahoe.

He served in several other State positions dealing with resource management and environmental protection, including Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs with the State Resources Agency (1982-1985), where he was responsible for various activities related to the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act. He also served as Assistant Executive Officer of the State Coastal Conservancy (1977-1982), and served in the Department of Finance (1977).

He lived in South Lake Tahoe for nearly the past 20 years. Born and raised in the Sacramento area, he was 58. He held a public affairs fellowship with the CORO Foundation, and had a bachelors degree from Redlands, a masters degree from Occidental, in addition to his law degree from UC Davis.

A memorial service for Dennis Machida will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at 1:00 PM at Mayhew Community Baptist Church, 3401 Routier Road, Sacramento. A public celebration of his life and accomplishments is expected to be held at Lake Tahoe later in the spring.

Notes can be sent to the family care of the California Tahoe Conservancy, 2161 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 2, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.

Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman also issued a statement on the death of Dennis Machida: "The impact of his loss on state government is profound. His leadership was crucial in the preservation and restoration of the Lake Tahoe Basin and instrumental in the creation of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. His energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and the way in which he brought everything he touched to life will be greatly missed. For me personally, Dennis was a true friend and mentor."

Machida died on March 4, 2005 in Montana while attending a conference. He is survived by his wife, Kathie; son, Nathan; mother, Miyako; and sisters Sandy and Connie.

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